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Message Text

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64
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /134 W
---------- 055620
R 260027Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3958
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5578

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CH, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S TRADE WITH PRC 1974

REF: HONG KONG 9122 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL (ALL FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS, A$1.00 EQUALS US$1.49). AUSTRALIAN TRADE STATISTICS COMPILED ON FY BASIS ONLY.

A. TOTAL IMPORTS FROM PRC FY74 - $71,796

B. TOTAL EXPORTS TO PRC FY74 - $162,550

C. COMMODITY DETAIL, NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1974:

IMPORTS: TEXTILE YARNS, FABRICS, MADEUP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (28,358), CLOTHING, CLOTHING ACESSORIES, ARTICLES OF KNITTED CLOTH ETC. ($7,172), FOOTWEAR ETC. ($2,138), CHEMICALS ($1,647), MISC.
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MANUFACTURED ARTICLES ($1,439), CRUDE ANIMAL AND

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VEG. MATERIALS ($1,318).

EXPORTS: CEREALS, CEREALPREPS. (39,285), TEXTILE
FIBERS AND WASTE ($23,285), IRON, STEEL ($18,575),
SUGAR, SUGAR PREPS ($7,000), ANMAL OILS, FATS
($3,950), HIDES, FURS, SKINS ($3,260), METALLIFEROUS
ORES, SCRAP ($2,741).

D. FUTURE TRENDS OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS TO AND IMPORTS
FROM PRC WILL BE DEPENDENT ON A NUMBER OF UNCERTAIN
INFLUENCES, SOME OF WHICH YOU PROBABLY IN BETTER POSITION
TO ASSESS THAN THIS EMBASSY. CERTAINLY THERE IS NO
LONGER ANY OVERALL POLICY OBSTACLE TO AUSTRALIAN-PRC
TRADE. DEP PRIME MIN CAIRNS, IN COMMENTING ON THREE-
YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS
A YEAR AGO, REPORTEDLY PREDICTED AUSTRALIAN-PRC TRADE
WOULD BECOME AS SIGNIFICANT AS AUSTRALIAN-JAPAN TRADE.
WHILE CONSIDERABLE HYPERBOLE INVOLVED IN THAT REMARK,
AUSTRALIA UNDOUBTEDLY COULD SUPPLY GREATLY INCREASED
AMOUNTS FO COMMODITIES SPECIFIED IN TRADE AGREEMENT --
WOOL, WHEAT, SUGAR, ETC. ON OTHER HAND, DESPITE GOA
POLICIES, IMPORTS FROM PRC WILL BE RUNNING INTO
INCREASING TROUBLE. BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS HAVE RECENTLY BECOME AREAS OF CONCERN
IN AUSTRALIA, AND "FLOOD OF IMPORTS" CONTRIBUTING TO
BOTH PROBLEMS. GOA IN JULY, FOR EXAMPLE, ASKED FOR RESTRAINTS ON
PRC EXPORTS OF KNITWEAR. IN SUM WE THINK FUTURE TREND
OF AUSTRALIAN-PRC TRADE WILL BE UPWARD BUT IT WILL BE
HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS AND WILL DEPEND
ON PRC WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT IMBALANCE.
HARROP

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